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# NAVY NEWS

**Vol. 007/97**

**Feb. 14, 1997**



Seated in the cockpit of the Navys Super Hornet, the Chief of Naval Operations ADM Jay Johnson and test pilot CDR Tom Gurney discuss the F/A-18E&Fs advanced control suite.  
(Navy photo by PH2 John Sokolowski) see related story page 5

## Guidance for victims of hazing and harassment forthcoming

WASHINGTON (NNS)— Admiral Jay Johnson, Chief of Naval Operations has directed the Chief of Naval Personnel to issue guidance in the proper handling of victims of hazing and other forms of harassment.

The move was prompted by an investigation into the tragic death of a Navy Sailor following a 1995 hazing incident. Johnson, in his endorsement dated Jan. 3 to the JAG Manual Investigation of the death of MMFN(SS) Dennis B. O'Brien, Jr., said that "the

incident and surrounding events have given the chain of command cause to reflect on basic leadership and accountability principles."

O'Brien was the victim of "tacking on" after receiving his "Silver Dolphins" warfare insignia upon qualifying in submarines. When leadership in his command noticed his Dolphins were bent, an investigation was begun into the "tacking on" incident. O'Brien declined to identify his shipmates involved.

According to the investigation,  
**see CNO, page 2**

## CNO directs hazing program review

WASHINGTON (NNS)— Chief of Naval Operations Admiral Jay Johnson, has sent a strong reminder to Navy leaders about the importance of personal dignity and that the service's efforts to eliminate "senseless and dangerous behavior" must continue.

"Each one of us must do our part to foster a climate within every Navy command that promotes the dignity and worth of each individual, holds offenders accountable and provides support for every Sailor," Johnson said.

In a personal message last month to Navy commanders, commanding officers and unit commanders, Admiral Johnson said that during the last several years the Navy has issued clear guidelines and policies that prohibit hazing and other similarly degrading activities.

He reminded commanders that while the Navy has made significant progress, prevention must be an ongoing effort. He noted that while the "deliberate application of humiliation, embarrassment and physical pain often masquerade as a means to promote loyalty within a group; they are not... such actions are clearly unacceptable."

Johnson has also directed a review of hazing prevention and education programs to ensure they stress the proper handling of victims.

Shortly after sending his message to commanders, Admiral Johnson addressed senior Navy leaders at the Navy Flag Officer Conference. As the top item in his discussion with all Navy flag officers, CNO stressed the responsibility of all Navy leaders to preserve the personal dignity of their subordinates.

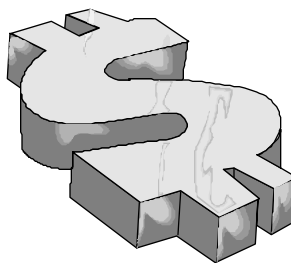
## Good news for Sailors in FY98/99

There's good news for Sailors in the FY98/99 DOD budget proposal announced Feb. 5 in Washington by Secretary of Defense William Cohen. It shows strong support for pay raises, maintains the current emphasis on quality of life initiatives and keeps the balance between readiness and force structure. It must be approved by Congress before it becomes effective.

"If you talk to the troops, the first issue they'll raise is pay," said Cohen. The proposed budget includes a 2.8 percent pay increase in FY98 and a 3.0 percent increase in each of the next four years, the maximum permitted under current law.

The new budget also sustains efforts to improve living quarters for both married and single Sailors. The plan calls for 905 new and replacement family housing units and 5,676 additional bachelor spaces as well as replacement or modernization of 1,032 existing bachelor spaces. It also includes \$385.1 million for improvements to existing family housing units. The construction program supports the DOD

"1 + 1" standard for single personnel which calls for one bedroom and one bathroom per occupant and will ensure enlisted Sailors have quality living conditions in barracks.



The new Navy budget proposes a modern, active and efficient fleet that is well balanced across readiness and force level requirements. Deployed ships will average 50.5 days underway per quarter while non-deployed forces will average 28 days underway per quarter. Aviators will be funded to achieve the Navy's goal of sustaining 85 percent Primary Mission Readiness (PMR) to train and maintain

qualified aircrews in the primary mission of their assigned aircraft.

The Navy is requesting 31 new ships between FY98 and FY03 including 15 Arleigh Burke guided missile destroyers, money to complete the third Seawolf attack submarine, and four New Attack Submarines (NSSN). It also contains support for the Arsenal Ship Demonstrator and a new nuclear powered aircraft carrier (CVN 77).

Aircraft procurement in the budget for FY98 includes money for 20 F/A-18 E/F Super Hornets, three E-2C Hawkeyes and 12 T-45TS Goshawks.

### CNO from pg. 1

O'Brien was subjected to undue pressure to reveal who was responsible, and, Johnson said in his endorsement, "The chain of command was responsible for this pressure." O'Brien subsequently took his own life.

"Dennis B. O'Brien, Jr., was an outstanding young man..." Johnson said. "In hindsight, it is now clear and apparent that there was an exceptional level of stress placed upon MMFN(SS) O'Brien."

The intent of Johnson's guidance is to ensure that victim sensitivities are taken into consideration when investigating incidents of hazing and harassment.

## Summary of NAVADMINs

**NAVADMIN 026/97 (DTG 051055Z FEB 97)**

Deputy SECDEF memo approving Navy Joint Service Officers

### Notable Quotable

**"If you try hard, you can succeed. If you try really hard you can excel." --**

**ADM Paul J. Reason in a salute to African-American Heritage at the Navy memorial and Heritage Center Feb. 5.**



### NAVNEWS

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## New budget supports career goals

The Navy continues to support career Sailors and their families, as shown in the FY98 DOD budget proposal released last week.

The President's budget emphasizes continued support for pay raises and quality of life initiatives for Sailors and their families, as well as maintaining balance between readiness and force structure. Other objectives of the budget proposal include maximum readiness by retaining qualified and experienced people, and maintaining reward-

ing career paths and enlisted advancement and officer promotion opportunity.

As the numbers of ships and squadrons have decreased since the end of the Cold War and the 1993 bottom Up Review, the number of people needed to support the Navy's force structure has also decreased. Although the President's budget shows a further reduction in end strength for FY98, the vast majority of personnel reductions will be achieved through reduced accessions and a selec-

tive use of voluntary early out programs.

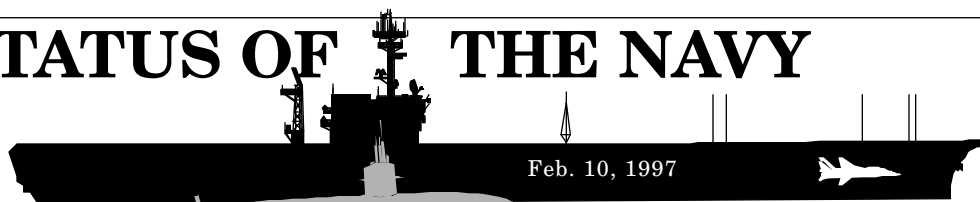
"Sailors do not need to be concerned during the end of the drawdown period," said Vice Adm. Daniel T. Oliver, Chief of Naval Personnel. "Their careers are safe."

The needs and concerns of Sailors and their families are important to the Navy, and the Bureau of Naval Personnel will continue to work with Sailors in the process of fulfilling personnel requirements at sea and ashore.

### THIS WEEK IN NAVY HISTORY

**Feb. 7, 1984 — Navy CAPT Bruce McCandless uses the manned maneuvering unit to make the first untethered walk in space from space shuttle *Challenger*.**

## STATUS OF THE NAVY



**Personnel:** 405,835 active duty; 238,130 ready

reserves; 213,048 civilians

**Aircraft:** 4,754

**Ships:** 352

**At Sea:** 198 ships (51%)

**Deployed:** 103 ships (29%)

**Personnel Deployed:** 48,579

**Exercises:** 8

**Port Visits:** 9

**SSNs at Sea:** 40 (54%)

**Carriers/Air Wings at Sea:**

USS *Kitty Hawk*/CVW-11: *Southern Watch*, Arabian Gulf

USS *Theodore Roosevelt*/CVW-3: Juniper Stallion 97,

Mediterranean Sea

USS *Nimitz*: local ops, eastern Pacific

USS *Carl Vinson*: local ops, eastern Pacific

USS *Constellation*: JTFEX 97-1, eastern Pacific

USS *John F. Kennedy*:

COMPTUEX, western Atlantic

**LHAs/LHDs/LPHs at Sea:**

USS *Essex*/11th MEU: transit, Arabian Gulf

USS *Nassau*/26th MEU: Island Thunder 97, Mediterranean Sea

USS *Peleliu*: local ops, eastern Pacific

USS *New Orleans*: port visit, Pearl Harbor, HI

USS *Saipan*: local ops, western Atlantic

USS *Kearsarge*: COMPTUEX, western Atlantic

USS *Boxer*: JTFEX 97-1, eastern Pacific

**Ships Assigned to Middle East**

**Force:** USS *Paul Hamilton*, USS *Leftwich*, USS *Fletcher*, USS *Ardent*, USS *Dextrous*, USS *Halyburton*, USS *Nicholson*

**Other Exercises/Operations:**

Counter-Drug Operations, Caribbean/East Pacific

Maritime Interception

Operations, Arabian Gulf

Operation *Southern Watch*, Arabian Gulf

Juniper Stallion 97,

Mediterranean Sea

JTFEX 97-1, eastern Pacific

Passex, North Sea

Island Thunder 97,

Mediterranean Sea

Noble Dina 97,

Mediterranean Sea

Gulfex 97-2, Gulf of Oman

## USS *Simon Lake* wins environmental award

by JO1 Craig Coleman

LA MADDALENA, Italy (NWSA) — USS *Simon Lake* (AS 33), homeported in La Maddalena, Italy, recently received the Chief of Naval Operations Environmental Award for 1996 in the small ship category.

The award goes to ships and shore facilities with environmental protection programs that exhibit superior efforts in their compliance with environmental laws, and outperform other commands in their competitive categories to ensure excellence in environmental stewardship.

During the competitive period, *Simon Lake's* Hazardous Materials Division processed and properly disposed of more than 158,000 pounds of used hazardous materials (HAZMAT) without incident.

According to LTJG Christopher Morgan, hazardous materials officer, *Simon Lake's* home port presents an array of challenges.

"Our situation here at Santo Stefano is unique because part of our operation is on the ship and part of it is on the site,"

said Morgan. "Every other ship in the fleet turns its processed materials over to shore facilities, but we turn it over to ourselves for processing and disposal."

There is a great deal of cooperation between the ship, port services and the Naval Support Activity La Maddalena for any potential hazardous materials spills. The command has a very complex arrangement that ensures hazardous materials are handled correctly and requires command preparedness if a casualty occurs.

As a forward-deployed tender, *Simon Lake* has added responsibilities that many other ships don't. "If we were in Norfolk, we would have a lot of pier-side support, like warehouses. We don't have that luxury here," Morgan said. "We would be able to minimize materials and wait to the last minute to order things, but we don't. Ordering all of our materials is complicated and takes a lot of time and work."

"The people here in S-11 (HAZMAT Division) really put their heart into the works," Morgan said. "People really care and are very concerned about what we do."

## Travel to the Republic of Philippines suspended

WASHINGTON (NNS) -- All official DOD travel to the Republic of the Philippines has been suspended until further notice according to NAVADMIN 05/97. The message cited actions by the government of the Philippines to terminate an agreement that provided legal protections to visiting DOD personnel as the reason for the move.

According to the message, DOD personnel are not to enter the Philippines for any reason without legal protection. Exceptions for official business may be approved on a case by case basis, but clearance must be obtained through JUSMAG Philippines at the U.S. embassy in accordance with the provisions of DOD regulation 4000.54G, the Foreign Clearance Guide. Official Travel cannot take place without

adequate legal protections secured, in advance, from the Philippine government, through the U.S. embassy.

The message said personnel on both regular and emergency leave may travel to the Philippines, but do so as private citizens with no legal protection. Passports and a foreign travel clearance issued in accordance with the provisions of DOD regulation 4500.45G from JUSMAG Philippines are required.

The NAVADMIN was transmitted as CNO WASHINGTON DC 052508Z FEB 97.



## USS *Falcon* commissioned

WASHINGTON (NWSA) — The Coastal Mine Hunter USS *Falcon* (MHC 59) was commissioned Feb. 8 at Port Arthur, Texas.

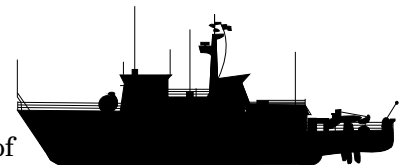
*Falcon's* primary mission is to find, classify and neutralize moored and bottom mines in littoral areas, harbors and coastal waterways. The ship is equipped with a high definition, variable-depth sonar and a remotely-operated, robotic underwater manipulator.

*Falcon* is the ninth ship of the Osprey-class authorized by Congress. It is one of the world's largest mine hunters constructed entirely of fiberglass. With a crew of five officers and 46 enlisted personnel, *Falcon* measures 188 feet long, 36 feet wide and displaces approximately 895 tons when fully

loaded.

LCDR Peter Fanta, of Casselberry, Fla., is the commanding officer. *Falcon* will join the Atlantic Fleet and will be homeported in Ingleside, Texas.

Ships in the coastal minehunter class are named after North American birds. Four previous ships have been named *Falcon*: a Mexican War gunboat (1846-1848); a World War I motorboat which operated in the 13th Naval District; a minesweeper (1918-1946) that conducted rescue and salvage operations during World War II; and a minesweeper (AMS 190) (1954-1976).



## CNO visits Super Hornet

NAS PATUXENT RIVER, MD (NNS) — Chief of Naval Operations Admiral Jay Johnson paid a visit to the *Super Hornet* Integrated Test Team (ITT) Feb. 11 for a first-hand update on the highly successful F/A-18E/F test program.

The team reported on the first round of carrier suitability trials completed recently with USS *John C. Stennis* (CVN 74) and other milestones achieved in more than 700 flight hours of testing.

After the briefings, a visit to the *Super Hornet* flight simulator and a chance to sit in the cockpit of the F-model the CNO said, "It's a magnificent machine with a great Navy/Industry team testing it, bringing it into fleet reality. I couldn't be more pleased with what I've seen ... I'm very impressed and excited about the future of naval aviation."

The ITT is made up of pilots and technicians from both the Navy and the aircraft's builder, St. Louis-based McDonnell Douglas. A total of seven *Super Hornets* (three single-seat F/A-18E models and four F/A-18F models) are operating from NAS Patuxent River in the three-year program that will verify the aircraft's capabilities and performance.

Over the past year, *Super Hornets* have successfully flown nearly 700 hours and have completed initial sea trials aboard USS *John C. Stennis* (CVN 74).

The *Super Hornet* program continues to be on time and under budget, with the aircraft nearly 800 pounds under specified weight. The Navy plans to buy 1,000 of the new long-range, all-weather, day-and-night, multi-mission strike fighters by the year 2016.

The first operational F/A-18F squadron will take the place an F-14A squadron in 2001 and half of the F-14 squadrons (five of ten) will have switched to F-18E and F-18F aircraft by 2005. The last F-14 squadron will transition to the *Super Hornet* in 2010.

The F/A-18 community will consist of ten active and one reserve squadrons, each with 14 aircraft assigned. Air Wings will carry 50 Strike Fighters in four squadrons: two 12-plane F/A-18C squadrons, one 12-plane F/A-18E squadron and one 14-plane F/A-18F squadron. The F/A-18F will assume the traditional two-seat strike/fighter role now performed by the F-14, which includes tactical reconnaissance, airborne forward air control and suppression of enemy air defense (SEAD) missions.

## NAVY-MARINE CORPS NEWS

Navy/Marine Corps News is a videotaped newscast generated for broadcast to Navy-Marine Corps fleet and shore units. The next Navy/Marine Corps News (program #707) includes the following stories:

- What the proposed FY-98 budget will mean to Sailors and Marines
- Chief of Naval Operations gets a close-up look at the *Super Hornet*
- The Navy leads the way in safeguarding the endangered Right Whale
- Naval Air Station Key West search and rescue Sailors rescue downed civilian pilot
- USS *John C. Stennis* Sailors test new dungarees replacements
- Black History Month is celebrated at the Navy Memorial in Washington, D.C.
- Brunswick, Maine, galley competes for the Ney Award
- Navy advancement exams scheduled for March
- Hawaii Sailors and Marines host the Winter Classic Special Olympics
- Sailors and Marines in Hawaii are in the front row seats for the NFL Pro Bowl
- Movie Call: "The Relic" keeps you on the edge of your seat

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